(d) The Government already has a scheme known as National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) under which Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is being released to the States / UTs for the development of urban slums. The Scheme is implemented in all States / UTs of the country.

Installation of Statue of Mahatma Gandhi at India Gate

5302. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to install the statue of Mahatma Gandhi near the Canopy at India Gate, New Delhi;

(b) whether any objection have been raised against the installation; and

(c) if so, by whom and what are the reasons given by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) A proposal for installation of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the India Gate Complex has been under the consideration of the Government. A writ petition has been filed before Delhi High Court by Conservation Society of Delhi against the India Gate Canopy structure being damaged in any manner for installing the statue, on the ground that the Canopy along with the India Gate Complex form part of national heritage. This petition is still pending before the Court for disposal.

News-item "Appropriate land, build on it, get it rgularized"

5303.SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Appropriate land, build on it, get it regularized" which appeared in the Times of India, dated 21st February, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that encroachments are, instead of being removed, regularized easily;

(c) if not, the details in this regard; and

(d) what are the plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.